AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-5 (canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A color characteristic description apparatus for producing color characteristic data for use when supplied image data is converted into output image data and for producing an identifier, the color characteristic description apparatus comprising:

multidimensional lookup table producing means for producing a multidimensional lookup table having only color characteristic points representing the supplied image data, the color characteristic points representing a relationship between a first point and a final point and any points in between the supplied image data and output image data; and

multidimensional lookup table compression means for compressing said multidimensional lookup table,

wherein the color characteristic data, which is produced by the color characteristic description apparatus, includes the compressed multidimensional lookup table and the identifier, the identifier being an element of the color characteristic data which identifies a restoring method for restoring the compressed multidimensional lookup table.

7. (currently Amended) A color characteristic description apparatus for producing color characteristic data for use when supplied image data is converted into output image data, comprising:

multidimensional lookup table producing means for producing a multidimensional lookup table having only color characteristic points representing the supplied image data, the color characteristic points representing a relationship between a first point and a final point and any points in between the supplied image data and output image data; and

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multidimensional lookup table compression means for compressing said multidimensional lookup table,

wherein the color characteristic data, which is produced by the color characteristic description apparatus, includes the compressed multidimensional lookup table and software for restoring the compressed multidimensional lookup table.

8. (original) A color characteristic description apparatus according to claim 7, wherein color characteristic data which is produced by said color characteristic description apparatus further incorporates an identifier for identifying a restoring method for restoring compressed data and software for converting the restored multidimensional lookup table into an ICC profile.

Claims 9-16 (canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A color characteristic description apparatus comprising:

a multidimensional lookup table producer for producing a multidimensional lookup table; and

a compressor for compressing said multidimensional lookup table,

wherein said color characteristic description apparatus outputs color characteristic data, which includes said compressed multidimensional lookup table and an identifier which is an element of the characteristic data, for identifying a restoring method for restoring said compressed multidimensional lookup table and a repairing method.

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18. (previously presented) The color characteristic description apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said multidimensional lookup table is produced in accordance with color characteristics of a digital camera.

19. (previously presented) The color characteristic description apparatus according to claim 18, wherein color characteristics of said digital camera are measured by a colorimeter.

20. (previously presented) The color characteristic description apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said outputted color characteristic data is synthesized with image data.

21. (previously presented) The color characteristic description apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said identifier further identifies a repairing method for repairing said compressed multidimensional lookup table.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of outputting color characteristic data from a digital camera, said method comprising the steps of:

     producing a multidimensional lookup table in a color characteristic description apparatus;

     compressing said multidimensional lookup table in said color characteristic description apparatus;

     outputting said color characteristic data from said color characteristic description apparatus, said color characteristic data including said compressed multidimensional lookup table and an identifier <u>which is an element of the characteristic data,</u> for identifying a restoring method for restoring said compressed multidimensional lookup table; and

     synthesizing said outputted color characteristic data with image data,

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which is then outputted as camera output data and a repairing method.

23. (Previously presented) The color characteristic description apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the color characteristic points, which represent the supplied image data, includes color intensity data of Red, Green, and Blue.

24. (Previously presented) The color characteristic description apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the color characteristic points, which represent the supplied image data, includes color intensity data of Red, Green, and Blue.

25. (Previously presented) The color characteristic description apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the compressed multidimensional lookup table includes color intensity data of Red, Green, and Blue.

26. (Previously presented) The color characteristic description apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the compressed multidimensional lookup table includes color intensity data of Red, Green, and Blue.

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